



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee's state parks preserve and protect our unique history and diverse ecosystems, and provide accessible, safe, and affordable places for wholesome outdoor recreation that can improve the health and vitality of children; and

WHEREAS, research shows children that develop a connection with nature and the outdoors and participate in outdoor activities are healthier and perform better in school; studies also show that healthy habits created during childhood are then carried throughout a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State Parks have begun a Junior Ranger program to highlight the positive connection between children and nature through active, nature-based activities at state park locations; and

WHEREAS, The Junior Ranger program encourages children, ages 6-14, to spend time in the outdoors, creating a positive impact on their health and well-being with the ultimate result of greater activity that prevents childhood diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Parks system, with 53 state parks and 81 natural areas, works with the Tennessee Department of Health, local school systems, area businesses, and community organizations to address regional childhood health problems like diabetes and obesity by promoting physical activity in state parks; and

WHEREAS, Junior Ranger programs and other outdoor recreation activities offered at state parks provide education, health-promotion, and information about environmental factors affecting a child's risk of becoming obese or developing diabetes; and

WHEREAS, during Junior Ranger Month, we reaffirm our need to create and maintain connections to the natural world for children and to create opportunities for them to get outside, get healthy, and have fun;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2011 as

JUNIOR RANGER MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 13th day of June, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State

